Non-Settlement of Provident Fund cases of Employees of Bharat Overseas Private Limited

*95. SHRI RAMJI LAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the cases of settlement of Provident Fund of employees is being made without any delay or discrimination;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the provident fund cases of the employees of Bharat Overseas Private Limited, Delhi and Calcutta, have not been settled till date :

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to expedite settlement of such cases;

(d) whether Government have issued any directive in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR : (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (e) The Provident Fund (P.F.) claims which are found complete in all respects are generally settled without any delay. M/s. Bharat Overseas Private Limited, Delhi was covered as an unexempted establishment w.e.f. September, 1974. The establishment was however, closed down in December, 1975. According to Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Delhi, all PF claims received by him have been settled and no claim is pending. As regards M/s. Bharat Overseas Private Limited, Calcutta, the establishment was granted relaxation on 1-8-69 to administer the Provident Fund Scheme through a Board of Trustees pending grant of exemption under section 17 of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. Meanwhile, the establishment defaulted in payment of PF dues. The RPFC, therefore, cancelled the relaxation and also initiated penal action against the establishment under section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code. Consequently, the police authorities seized the records relating to the Provident Fund Trust and also arrested the persons responsible in the establishment. In the meantime, the establishment was closed w.e.f. 5-2-1975. In 1978, the Company was taken over by the Government of West Bengal. As the records were with the police authorities, the present management could not prepare the previous accumulation statements and other statutory returns which are necessary for making Provident Fund settlements. The RPFC, Calcutta held a tripartite meeting involving the trade union leaders, the State Government and the Current management A firm of Chartered Accountants has been designated to prepare statement on previous accumulation on the basis of available records with the current management and the police authorities. However, as an interim measure, the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner has been making part payment of the claims of the employees by resorting to payments through Special Reserve Fund.

Administration of Toxic Drugs in An Army Hospital

*96. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item that appeared in the Indian Express, New Delhi Edition of the 10th October, 1992 captioned "Hospital administers toxic drugs, IMA cadet dies, seven others battle for life".

(b) whether any enquiry has been ordered in the incident, if so the details thereof indicating therewith the action taken against the officials responsible; and

(c) if no enquiry has been ordered, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Government have seen the press report.

(b) and (c) Commandant, IMA, had ordered a Court of Inquiry into the incident. The report of the Court of Inquiry is currently under examination of the GOC-in-C, Central Command. Director General Medical Services (Army) had also ordered a technical investigation to look into the professional lapses, if any, in the medical care of the cadets. This investigation has not found anybody blame-

worthy. Appropriate measures on the basis of the technical investigation have been taken to avoid the recurrence of such incidents.

Medical Benefits to Ex-Servicemen

*97. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what medical facilities are available to the Ex-servicemen and their spouses in the country, with details thereof;

(b) what is the number of Ex-Servicemen availing of these medical facilities, with details thereof;

(c) whether all the retired army personnel have been covered under these facilities;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide medical benefits to all the retired army personnel and their spouses throughout their life ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD' PAWAR) : (a) to (e) All Ex-servicemen and their spouses, like other citizens of India, are entitled to avail of medical facilities in Civil Govt. Hospitals throughout the country. In addition, Medical coverage is also being provided to Service Pensioners and their spouses from the various out-patient Clinics, Military Hospitals, Field Ambulance Units and other specialised Medical centres under the Ministry of Defence.

Army personnel who retired after 1-1-1976 with service pension and their spouses/widows of such Army personnel are eligible for financial assistance upto Rs. 1 lakh (medical insurance cover being raised to Rs. 1 lakh each in respect of husband and wife w.e.f. 1-1-1993) under the Army Group Insurance Scheme on payment of a one time nominal non-refundable subscription, for treatment of disease/surgery in the case of ailments of the heart, cancer and for renal transplant.

In the case of Air Force Personnel who retired on or after 31-7-91, financial assistance upto Rs. 1 lakh each is available to the husband and spouse on a one time payment of a non-refundable nominal premium. This insurance is for a period of 15 years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. For personnel who retired prior to 31-7-91, on completion of not less than 20 years service, financial assistance upto Rs. 50,000/- is available to the individual or his spouse for treatment from the Air Force Benevolent Fund.

In the case of Navy, medical facilities are not covered under any group insurance. However, ex-gratia grants upto Rs. 50,000/- for 2 persons in a family of retired personnel can be given for medical treatment from the Navy Benevolent Association Fund.

In addition to the above assistance, the Kendriya Sainik Board also renders liberal financial assistance to ex-Services personnel for specialised treatment.

Statistics of ex-Servicemen/their spouses receiving medical treatment at Government Hospitals is not compiled by this Ministry.

जम्मू और कश्मीर के शरणार्थियों का पुनर्वास

*98 श्री राम जेठमलानी :
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अलगाववादी ताकतों द्वारा उत्पन्न आंतक के कारण जम्मू और कश्मीर से भारी संख्या में स्थानीय नागरिकों को देश के अन्य भागों में शरण लेनी पड़ी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये कश्मीरी नागरिक किन-किन शहरों में शिविरों में रह रहे हैं, उनकी कुल संख्या कितनी है और वे कितने समय से इन शिविरों में रह रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन व्यक्तियों ने सरकार से अपने पुनर्वास के लिए मांग की है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार उन्हें जम्मू-कश्मीर राज्य में ही किसी अलग शहर में बसाने का विचार रखती है; और